



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Tim Dunn (R-13)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Dunn Denounces Border Patrol Policy of Releasing Migrants into Border Communities

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Tim Dunn (R-13) today criticized the policy of the U.S. Border Patrol of releasing migrants into border communities when holding facilities are at capacity.

“Yuma and other border cities simply don’t have the resources to handle an influx of migrants released into the community,” said Representative Dunn. **“It’s unbelievable that Border Patrol is putting both the migrants and the communities in this situation. Even worse, this policy is likely to motivate even more migrants to cross the border. The emergency on the border has escalated to a crisis situation that will continue to cause a run on our southern border.”**

Representative Dunn urged President Trump and Congress to utilize emergency orders and take other steps to help border communities, such as:

- Provide adequate administrative law judges to adjudicate immigration cases.
- Reimburse local governments for costs associated with illegal immigration.
- Negotiate repatriation agreements with Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.
- Immediately dispatch FEMA to provide emergency housing and resources to assist Border Patrol while migrants wait for their hearing.

Arizona has been impacted due to a mumps outbreak at ICE holding facilities in Eloy and Florence and overcrowding at other facilities. Border Patrol will begin releasing migrants into communities in Yuma and Pima counties with no sponsors, food, or anticipation of shelter. Infected individuals are not among the migrants being released into the community, but this outbreak does prevent the ability of these facilities to house individuals due to directing resources to quarantines.

“While this is clearly a failure of the federal government, it’s imperative that the state do all that it can to assist these communities such as declaring a state of emergency,” said Representative Dunn. **“I am proud that we are a compassionate nation, but our border communities simply don’t have the resources to sustain this over the long-term.”**

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